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DIVISIONS  
ENERGY  
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MINERAL MINING  
MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINES  
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## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **Virginia Coal Mines, Miners Recognized for Safe Work Records**

*Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board, DMME awards 11 mines, 48 miners for zero lost-time accidents*

**Big Stone Gap, VA** – Eleven southwest Virginia coal mines have been recognized by the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board and Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy for working a total of 19,276 days with no lost time accidents during 2002. The Board and DMME also recognized forty-eight individual coal miners for working from 10 to 30 years without a lost time injury.

The Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board and Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy issued certificates to the mines and miners during the course of the summer. DMME's Division of Mines Chief Frank Linkous and agency mine inspectors hand-delivered the certificates in brief presentations at the mine sites, congratulating the winners for achieving their lost time accident-free records.

"It is our pleasure to visit each mine site with these annual awards on behalf of the Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board to share this special mine safety accomplishment with all employees," said Linkous. "We believe it is important to acknowledge the effort put forth by these mining operations and individuals to create a work culture that values mine safety and the well-being of mine employees."

Virginia Coal Mine Safety Award criteria include categories for large and small underground coal mines, large and small surface mines/facilities, and individual categories, which recognize individual miners who have achieved outstanding safety performance. DMME's Division of Mines mails a request for applications for awards each spring for the previous work year. The

Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board reviews the applications. Winners of the 2002 Virginia Coal Mine Safety Awards follow:

**Category: Large Surface Mine**

**(At least 25,001 employee hours for the calendar year)**

Cumberland River Coal Company – Wise County	Pardee Plant	75,115 hrs.
Jewell Smokeless Coal Company – Buchanan County	Prep Plant #2	69,122 hrs.
Powell Mountain Coal Company – Lee County	Synfuel Plant	48,457 hrs.
Powell Mountain Coal Company – Lee County	Prep Plant	38,207 hrs.

**Category: Small Surface Mine**

**(At least 10,000 employee hours for the calendar year)**

Dominion Coal Corporation – Buchanan County	Central Shop	15,210 hrs.
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**Category: Small Underground Mine**

**(At least 20,000 employee hours for the calendar year)**

Meadow Branch Coal Company – Wise County	Low Splint #1	79,649 hrs.
Dominion Coal Corporation – Buchanan County	No. 36 Mine	59,600 hrs.
Champion Coal Company – Buchanan County	No. 1 Mine	30,670 hrs.
Calico Coal Company – Buchanan County	Meridian #1	23,394 hrs.
Dominion Coal Corporation – Buchanan County	No. 34 Mine	23,205 hrs.

**Category: Underground facility working 5 consecutive years + without a lost time accident**

Calico Coal, Inc., Meridian Mine: Fred Blankenship, Dewey Evans, Richard Jewell, Charles Jewell, Randy Keen, William Rasnake, David Rose, Jerry Varney, Ronnie Wilson, Joe Wright, Jamie Perkins, Ernest Varney – President

**Category: Individuals working 30 years or longer without a lost time injury:**

Robert Stanford, Welder, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 35 Yrs., 3 Mos.  
Sam Dowdy, Equipment Operator, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 35 Years  
Roger Potter, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining (Buchanan County), 34 Yrs.  
Charles Smith, Rock Truck Operator, Twin Star Mining, 32 Yrs.  
Russell Dotson, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 32 Yrs.  
Noah Puckett, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 31 Yrs.  
Kenneth Sturgill, Heavy Equipment Operator, Cumberland River Coal Co., 30 Yrs., 8 Mos.  
William Sammons, Jr., Supply Man, Knox Creek Coal Co. (Buchanan County), 30 Yrs., 1 Mo.  
Samuel L. Casey, Superintendent, Twin Star Mining, 30 Yrs.  
Glen Mullins, Foreman, Twin Star Mining, 30 Yrs.

**Category: Individuals working 20 years or longer without a lost time injury:**

Darrell Dotson, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 28 Yrs.  
Freddie Justus, Asst. Mine Foreman, Knox Creek Coal Co., 28 Yrs.  
Ralph Rife, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 27 Yrs.  
John Potter, Foreman, Twin Star Mining, 27 Yrs.

Paul Blankenship, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 27 Yrs.  
Johnny Lane, Greaser, Twin Star Mining, 27 Yrs.  
David Webb, Rock Truck Operator, Twin Star Mining, 27 Yrs.  
Dallas Honaker, Heavy Equipment Operator, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 26 Yrs., 4 Mos.  
Chester Lark, Electrician, Twin Star Mining, 26 Yrs.  
Gary Scarberry, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 26 Yrs.  
Hassell Bailey, Foreman, Twin Star Mining, 26 Yrs.  
Steve Estep, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 26 Yrs.  
Lawrence Stinson, Mechanic, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 25 Yrs.  
William Cordill, Shuttle Car Operator, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 24 Yrs.  
Randy Bostic, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 24 Yrs.  
Tracy Cline, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 24 Yrs.  
Douglas Sanders, Production Crew Leader, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 23 Yrs., 4 Mos.  
Terry B. Belcher, Foreman, Knox Creek Coal Co., 22 Yrs., 6 Mos.  
Otis Endicott, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 22 Yrs.  
Benny Lester, Drill Operator, Twin Star Mining, 22 Yrs.  
Buster J. Lamie Jr., Foreman, Knox Creek Coal Co., 21 Yrs., 9 Mos.  
Dennis Day, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 21 Yrs.  
Jackie Melton, Coke Burner, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corporation, 21 Yrs.  
Duran Collier, Maintenance Superintendent, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 21 Yrs., 5 Mos.  
Leonard Davis, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 20 Yrs.

**Category: Individuals working 10 years or longer without a lost time injury:**

Carl Evans, Electrical Superintendent, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 19 Yrs., 8 Mos.  
Gerald Hurley, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 19 Yrs.  
John Estep, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 19 Yrs.  
Earnest Jackson, Maintenance, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 17 Yrs., 7 Mos.  
Bobby S. Breeding, Mine Superintendent, Knox Creek Coal Co., 17 Yrs.  
Doug Hurley, Tipple Operator, Twin Star Mining, 17 Yrs.  
Ricky Bevins, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 17 Yrs.  
Larry Owens, Maintenance Crew Leader, Jewell Smokeless Coal Corp., 16 Yrs.  
Scott A. Jessee, Foreman, Knox Creek Coal Co., 14 Yrs.  
Jeffrey Yates, Outside Man, Knox Creek Coal Co., 12 Yrs.  
Rickey D. McGinnis, Maintenance Foreman, Knox Creek Coal Co., 12 Yrs.  
Donald Justus, Equipment Operator, Twin Star Mining, 11 Yrs.  
Curtis Justus, Drill Operator, Twin Star Mining, 11 Yrs.

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